GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:822
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
DAMAGE TO TAJ MAHAL
BENI PRASAD VERMA;MAHBOOB ZAHEDI;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;NAWAL KISHORE RAI;RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI;T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, `Taj Vandalism-Officials begin passing the buck` appearing in the `Times of India` dated October 19, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the case;

(c) the damage caused as a result thereof;

(d) whether Supreme Court has directed the UP Government and ASI to take stern action against the culprit and probe into the vandalism by some political activists; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard by ASI and by UP Government in the matter;

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. A large number of people who has gathered at Agra in connection with a political rally, entered the Taj Mahal on 13th and 14th October, 2001 without entry tickets.

(b) to (e) Some graffiti was scribbled on the walls of the monument which has been erased completely. In a suo-motu proceedings in this matter, the Hon`ble Supreme Court, have directed the Archaeological Survey of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh to file a report in the matter. Further action will be taken in the light of the orders of the Hon`ble Supreme Court.